### September 30, 2002

The President The White House Washington, D. C.

Through: Kenneth O. Burris, Jr., Regional Director

FEMA Region IV

3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road

Atlanta, GA 30341

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5206 (the Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Mississippi as a result of the direct effects of tornadoes, damaging winds, torrential rains and flooding associated with Tropical Storm Isidore that struck the Mississippi Coast on the early morning of September 26, 2002. The incident period for this disaster began on September 23, 2002 and is continuing.

Rain bands from the tropical system began to reach areas of the State on Monday, September 23, 2002. Tropical Storm Isidore lashed the Mississippi Gulf Coast and inland counties with heavy rain most of Wednesday, September 25, after making a predawn landfall near Grand Isle, Louisiana. During this event, the National Weather Service issued 3 separate tornado watches and 3 flash flood watches for a vast majority of the State, 1 tornado warning, 2 severe thunderstorm warnings, 17 flash flood warnings, 4 flood watches, 2 flood warnings and 2 flood advisories. Rainfall amounts totaled 12 inches across the coastal area, as much as 10 inches across central Mississippi and up to 6 to 8 inches in North Mississippi. Although thousands were driven from their homes during the early morning hours by storm surge and rapid rising water, no one was seriously injured or hospitalized. The tropical storm resulted in three (3) fatalities before departing the State on September 26.

Extensive residential structural damage was reported throughout Southern Mississippi. Widespread power outages occurred as a result of utility companies disconnecting services to approximately 16,000 customers to prevent utility damage and the threat of electrocution due to rising water in residential areas. This preventive measure caused disruption to water, sewer services, home cooling, food preparation and commercial enterprises. Numerous private water systems were ruined by floodwaters. Boil water advisories were immediately issued and remain in effect for many public and private water suppliers. Public, private, and volunteer organizations have provided shelter, food, water, and other vital life support services to affected citizens.

In response to the situation, I have taken appropriate action under State law and directed the execution of the State Emergency Operations Plan on September 24, 2002, in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act, and declared a State of Emergency (attached) to exist in all counties of the State affected for the duration of this disaster. I issued Executive Order 860 (attached) activating the Mississippi National Guard to State Active Duty to provide military support to civil authorities.

On September 25, 2002, an advanced element of the FEMA Region IV Emergency Response Team arrived to provide assistance to state counterparts at the State Emergency Operations Center. This resource remains on-site to help us transition from the emergency phase to the recovery operations phase.

On September 26, 2002, a joint Federal, State, and local survey of the damaged areas were requested. September 28, 2002, surveys were begun in the affected areas to determine the extent of damage and losses sustained by public and private interests. Initial assessments indicated the hardest hit areas exist in Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Pearl River, and Pike Counties.

I have determined, pursuant to 44 CFR Section 206.36, that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local governments and that supplementary Federal assistance is necessary. I am specifically requesting Individual Assistance, including Disaster Housing, Individual and Family Grant (IFG), Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Crisis Counseling, and Small Business Administration disaster loans for Harrison County and the contiguous counties of Jackson, Hancock, Stone and Pearl River. In accordance with FEMA Response and Recovery Directorate Policy 9122.1, dated November 1, 2000, I am requesting that Pike and Amite Counties be included for Individual Assistance as contiguous counties to disaster declaration FEMA-1435-DR-LA (Tangipahoa Parish in Louisiana). I am also requesting Public Assistance for Harrison, Hancock, Jackson, Pearl River, Pike, and Lincoln Counties, and mitigation for the entire State.

Preliminary estimates of the types and amount of assistance needed under the Stafford Act are tabulated in Enclosures A and B. Estimated requirements for assistance from certain Federal agencies under other statutory authorities are tabulated in Enclosure C.

During 2001, the State was declared for four (4) separate major disaster declarations and three (3) separate SBA departmental declarations. State obligations for these disasters exceeded \$5.7 million dollars. This summer the State and local governments, many affected by Tropical Storm Isidore, expended over \$8.1 million dollars attempting to eradicate a public health threat. My request for federal assistance under the Stafford Act to assist with this event was denied. A shrinking economic growth rate over the past several years have substantially reduced state tax revenues thus forcing me to cut state spending to balance the State budget. This setback coupled with our recent disasters and this latest loss has clearly exceeded the resources of the state and the local governments capacity to fully recover without federal disaster assistance. Should Tropical Storm Lili continue on its present track and strike the Mississippi Coast by the end of the week as projected, our situation will become even more critical.

The following information is furnished on the nature and amount of State and local resources that have been or will be used to alleviate the conditions of this disaster:

Office of the Governor is providing overall command and control, implemented emergency powers through proclamation of a State of Emergency and issued an Executive Order placing the Mississippi National Guard on state active duty, surveyed damaged areas with state and federal officials, and met with affected county local officials.

**Mississippi Emergency Management Agency** deployed the State Emergency Response Team to the coast to coordinate local resource requests, is providing overall disaster response management, coordination and control, technical and operations support to state and local governments, and preparing to administer, coordinate and manage recovery efforts.

Mississippi Department of Human Services supported mass care requirements including shelter operations management.

**Mississippi Department of Health** provided public information support and is coordinating water supply system operational status, special needs population protection, medical system operability, issuing public health related and boil water advisories, and conducting laboratory analysis on potable water samples.

Mississippi Department of Transportation has monitored evacuation routes, cleared state and federal aid road systems and is assisting with county and secondary road debris clearing.

Mississippi Development Authority/Energy Division has established and maintained contact with affected electrical power providers to ascertain power restoration priorities, and coordinate restoration information with other utility service providers.

**Mississippi Military Department** has activated 430 Guardsman to staff the State Hurricane Support Center, support SEOC operations, conducted rescue operations of persons in flooded areas, provided generator sets to support local requests, aviation support, and assets for assisting with security, debris clearance and disposal.

**Mississippi Department of Education** provided support for sheltering and coordinated damage assessment in affected public school districts and provided guidance to education officials on reopening schools in flooded areas.

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality conducted assessment of all wastewater treatment facilities and monitored cleanup operations in the affected areas, provided guidance on debris management and disposal, and monitored conditions threatening high hazard dams.

Mississippi Department of Public Safety supported requests for local law enforcement augmentation and provided security patrols in affected areas.

**Mississippi Gaming Commission** coordinated closure and reopening of gaming casinos and provided security enforcement personnel.

Mississippi Tax Commission provided law enforcement personnel.

**Department of Insurance / Mississippi Fire Academy** is providing guidance to local fire departments on safety measures and rescue operations.

**Mississippi Department of Corrections** provided public information specialists to support the Joint Information Center and inmates to assist with debris cleanup.

**Mississippi Forestry Commission** was stood-up to monitor timber damage and to provide management of state mobilization centers and staging areas.

Mississippi Department of Mental Health provided public affairs personnel to support the Joint Information Center.

Mississippi Board of Animal Health provided personnel from the State Veterinarian office to coordinate sheltering animals and pets.

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks conducted rescue operations and assessed damage to state owned parks in the affected areas.

**Mississippi Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster** provided coordination of volunteer relief efforts with other Mass Care agencies from the State EOC. VOAD members activated individual services to provide shelter, mass food preparation, mobile feeding units, and potable water.

I hereby certify that State and local obligations and expenditures for this major disaster will comply with all applicable cost sharing requirements. I intend to implement the Individual and Family Grant (IFG) program, and further certify that the State will assume all applicable non-Federal share of associated costs as shown in Enclosure A. Total expenditures are expected to exceed \$8,218,685 in accordance with the table in Enclosure D.

I have designated Leon K. Shaifer as the State Coordinating Officer and Robert R. Latham, Jr., as the Governor's Authorized Representative for this request. They will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in damage assessments and are authorized to provide any information, assurances, requests or justification on my behalf. The State Coordinating Officer will provide further information concerning this event to the Federal Coordinating Officer as necessary.

Very truly yours,

**RONNIE MUSGROVE** 

Attachments Enclosures

## ENCLOSURE A TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

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## **Estimated Requirements for Individual Assistance The Stafford Act**

| County             | Temporary Housing  (Indicate No.) | Individual and Family Grants  (Indicate No. and |             | Disaster Unemployment Assistance (Indicate No. and |          | Other |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---|-------------|--|----------|-------|
|                    |                                   | dolla   | r amount)   | dollar amount)                                     |          |       |
| <b>County Name</b> |                                   | No.   | \$          | No.  | \$       |       |
| HANCOCK            |                                   | 1,142   | \$5,057,800 | 110  | \$33,000 |       |
| HARRISON           |                                   | 162   | \$1,449,700 | 40   | \$12,000 |       |
| JACKSON            |                                   | 7   | \$ 39,900   |  |          |       |
|                    |                                   |   |             |  |          |       |
|                    |                                   |   |             |  |          |       |
| Totals:            |                                   | 1,311   | \$6,547,400 | 150  | \$45,000 |       |

### **Profile of Affected County Populations**

#### **Hancock County**

The 2001 estimated population of Hancock County is 44,031. The racial composition is 90.2% White, 6.8% Black, 0.6% American Indian, 0.9% Asian and 1.8% Hispanic. 14.0% of the population is over age 65. 25.1% of the population is under age 18. 10,776 persons over age 5 have some form of disability. 14.4% are below the poverty level. The median household money income is \$35,202 or \$3,872 above the median household money income State average of \$31,330. The per capita income is \$17,748 or \$1,895 above the average state per capita money income of \$15,853. The land area contains 477 square miles with a population density of 90.1 persons per square mile. There are 16,897 households with an average 2.52 of persons per household. The homeownership rate is 79.6%.

#### **Harrison County**

The 2001 estimated population of Harrison County is 189,409. The racial composition is 73.1% White, 21.1% Black, 0.5% American Indian, 2.6% Asian and 2.6% Hispanic. 11.1% of the population is over age 65. 26.0% of the population is under age 18. 40,495 persons over age 5 have some form of disability. 14.6% are below the poverty level. The median household money income is \$35,624 or \$4,294 above the median household money income State average of \$31,330. The per capita income is \$18,024 or \$2,171 above the average state per capita money income of \$15,853. The land area contains 581 square miles with a population density of 326.3 persons per square mile. There are 16,897 households with an average 2.52 of persons per household. The homeownership rate is 62.7%.

#### **Jackson County**

The 2001 estimated population of Jackson County is 132,823. The racial composition is 75.4% White, 20.9% Black, 0.3% American Indian, 1.6% Asian and 2.1% Hispanic. 10.3% of the population is over age 65. 27.7% of the population is under age 18. 25,379 persons over age 5 have some form of disability. 12.7% are below the poverty level. The median household money income is \$39,118 or \$7,788 above the State median household money income average of \$31,330. The per capita income is \$17,768 or \$1,915 above the average state per capita money income of \$15,853. The land area contains 727 square miles with a population density of 180.8 persons per square mile. Housing units total 51,678. There are 47,676 households with an average 2.72 of persons per household. The homeownership rate is 74.6%

#### **Pearl River County**

The 2001 estimated population of Pearl River County is 49,969. The racial composition is 85.6% White, 12.2% Black, 0.5% American Indian, 0.3% Asian and 1.4% Hispanic. 12.6% of the population is over age 65. 27.0% of the population is under age 18. 12,221 persons over age 5 have some form of disability. 18.4% are below the poverty level. The median household money income is \$30,912 or \$418 below the State median household money income average of \$31,330. The per capita income is \$15,160 or \$693 below the average state per capita money income of \$15,853. The land area contains 811 square miles with a population density of 59.9 persons per square mile. Housing units total 20,610. There are 18,078 households with an average 2.65 of persons per household. The homeownership rate is 79.8%.

#### **Pike County**

The 2001 estimated population of Pike County is 38,956. The racial composition is 51.2 White, 47.5% Black, 0.2% American Indian, 0.3% Asian and 0.7% Hispanic. 14.2% of the population is over age 65. 27.7% of the population is under age 18. 9,449 persons over age 5 have some form of disability. 25.3% are below the poverty level. The median household money income is \$24,562 or \$6,768 below the State median household money income average of \$31,330. The per capita income is \$14,040 or \$1,813 below the average state per capita money income of \$15,853. The land area contains 409 square miles with a population density of 95.2 persons per square mile. Housing units total 16,720. There are 14,472 households with an average 2.57 of persons per household. The homeownership rate is 74.4%.

## ENCLOSURE B TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

# Estimated Requirements for Public Assistance The Stafford Act

## **CATEGORY**

| County      | A         | В         | С           | D         | E        | F         | G           | Total       |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| HARRISON    | \$ 52,700 | \$177,000 | \$256,000   |           | \$15,875 | \$305,772 | \$3,002,862 | \$3,810,209 |
| HANCOCK     | \$180,000 | \$ 77,000 | \$128,000   |           |          |           | \$ 425,000  | \$ 810,000  |
| JACKSON     | \$130,323 | \$ 81,619 | \$692,500   | \$100,000 | \$17,000 | \$179,600 | \$ 422,220  | \$1,623,262 |
| PEARL RIVER | \$ 2,428  | \$ 11,530 | \$252,581   |           |          | \$ 3,045  |             | \$ 269,584  |
| PIKE        | \$ 9,000  | \$ 5,000  | \$ 53,400   |           | \$ 2,800 | \$ 14,500 | \$ 22,600   | \$ 107,300  |
| LINCOLN     | \$ 30,000 | \$ 7,000  | \$ 25,510   |           | \$13,000 | \$ 3,000  |             | \$ 78,510   |
| TOTALC      | \$404,451 | \$359,149 | \$1,407,991 | \$100,000 | \$48,675 | \$505,917 | \$3,872,682 | \$6.600.965 |
| TOTALS      | \$404,451 | \$359,149 | \$1,407,991 | \$100,000 | \$48,075 | \$505,917 | \$3,872,082 | \$6,698,865 |

## ENCLOSURE C TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

## **Estimated Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs**

| County      | SBA Home<br>Loans | SBA<br>Business<br>Loans | FSA<br>Loans | NRCS | FHWA | USACE | OTHER |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------|------|------|-------|-------|
| HANCOCK     |                   | 2002                     |              |      |      |       |       |
| HARRISON    |                   |                          |              |      |      |       |       |
| JACKSON     |                   |                          |              |      |      |       |       |
| PEARL RIVER |                   |                          |              |      |      |       |       |
|             |                   |                          |              |      |      |       |       |
|             |                   |                          |              |      |      |       |       |
| Totals *    | \$1,418,946       | \$579,557                |              |      |      |       |       |

#### \*Estimated Loans

The estimated activity reflected above is based on national averages of SBA Physical Disaster Loan Activity percentages in major disasters over the past five years. These loan amounts were obtained from results of the Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) to 2,695 homeowner properties totaling \$41,828,000 and 45 Businesses totaling \$14,021,000.

## ENCLOSURE D TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

## **Governor's Certification**

I certify that for this current disaster, State and local government expenditures and obligations will include the non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act. As stated in my basic letter, and based on information available at this time, tabulation of these estimated expenditures and obligations are as follows:

| CATEGORY OF ASSISTANCE                                    | AMOUNT      |             |  |
|---|-------------|-------------|--|
| Individual Assistance:                                    | STATE       | LOCAL       |  |
| Housing   | -0-         | -0          |  |
| Individual and Family Grants                              | \$1,636,850 | -0-         |  |
| Other (specify)   | -0-         | -0-         |  |
| Total:  | \$1,636,850 |             |  |
|   |             |             |  |
| Public Assistance:  |             |             |  |
| Category A - Debris Removal                               | \$50,556    | \$353,895   |  |
| Category B – Emergency Protective Measures                | \$44,894    | \$314,225   |  |
| Category C – Roads and Bridges                            | \$175,999   | \$1,231,992 |  |
| Category D – Water Control Facilities                     | \$12,500    | \$87,500    |  |
| Category E – Buildings and Equipment                      | \$6,084     | \$42,591    |  |
| Category F – Utilities                                    | \$48,615    | \$340,302   |  |
| Category G – Other (Parks, Recreational Facilities, etc.) | \$484,085   | \$3,388,597 |  |
| Total:  | \$822,733   | \$5,759,102 |  |
| Grand Total:  | \$2,459,583 | \$5,759,102 |  |